

PCS for HB 379

2019

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to animal welfare; amending s.
3 474.2165, F.S.; authorizing a veterinarian to report
4 criminal violations to certain officers and agents
5 without notice to or authorization from a client;
6 providing an effective date.

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8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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10 Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 474.2165, Florida
11 Statutes, is amended to read:

12 474.2165 Ownership and control of veterinary medical
13 patient records; report or copies of records to be furnished.—

14 (4) (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a
15 veterinarian may not furnish written patient medical ~~such~~
16 ~~records may not be furnished to, and may not discuss~~ the medical
17 condition of a patient ~~may not be discussed~~ with, any person
18 other than the client or the client's legal representative or
19 other veterinarians involved in the care or treatment of the
20 patient, unless the veterinarian has received ~~except upon~~
21 written authorization from ~~of~~ the client. However, such records
22 may be furnished without written authorization under the
23 following circumstances:

24 1. (a) To any person, firm, or corporation that has
25 procured or furnished such examination or treatment with the

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26 client's consent.

27 ~~2.(b)~~ In any civil or criminal action, unless otherwise
28 prohibited by law, upon the issuance of a subpoena from a court
29 of competent jurisdiction and proper notice to the client or the
30 client's legal representative by the party seeking such records.

31 ~~3.(c)~~ For statistical and scientific research, provided
32 the information is abstracted in such a way as to protect the
33 identity of the patient and the client, or provided written
34 permission is received from the client or the client's legal
35 representative.

36 **(b) If a criminal violation relating to a dog or cat is**
37 **suspected, a veterinarian may, without notice to or**
38 **authorization from the client, report the violation to a law**
39 **enforcement officer, an animal control officer who is certified**
40 **pursuant to s. 828.27(4)(a), or an agent appointed under s.**
41 **828.03. The report may not include written medical records**
42 **except upon the issuance of an order from a court of competent**
43 **jurisdiction.**

44 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.